

health care and reduce costs—not by denying services to patients, but by improving efficiency and effectiveness. Congress should aid doctors, hospitals, and patients to improve their use of electronic medical records, and we should explore responsible ways to reward the quality of health care, not just the quantity of care.

And we must fulfill our duty through our hearings and our legislative program to ensure that Government is working for the people, that we have strong laws to keep workers safe on the job and that workers are fairly paid, that student loans work for students and not just the banks, that students are protected from exploitation in the private student loan market, that prescription drugs we rely on and the food we eat are safe, that the workers that risked their lives for others on 9/11 are cared for as they deal now with the illness and injury.

These will be my priorities as chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee next year. They come directly out of this election where the American people spoke loud and clear. And I look forward to working with my colleagues to make important progress for America's families.

SOMALIA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I remain deeply concerned about rising instability and growing tension in Somalia. It is becoming clear that efforts to date have failed to sufficiently address the stand off between the Islamic courts and the transitional federal government, TFG, and now new tension between Ethiopia and Eritrea is threatening to engulf the entire region in a costly and devastating conflict. Unfortunately, rising instability in Somalia is having a direct effect on stability throughout the region and, if left unchecked, will have a significant impact on our national security and the security of our friends and allies.

As I have said many times before, it is imperative that the U.S. Government begin playing a leadership role in helping to stabilize Somalia and the region and that it do so immediately. We need a comprehensive approach to engaging with regional actors, the international community, and the U.N. to find a permanent solution to this crisis. Such an approach will contribute to stability throughout the Horn of Africa and to our national security.

We can't do this successfully, of course, unless we create a comprehensive approach and apply sufficient resources and attention to this growing problem. I was pleased when the Senate passed an amendment I offered to the Defense authorization bill a few months ago that calls for a comprehensive strategy for establishing long-term stability in Somalia. I believe, as do a number of colleagues on both sides of the aisle, that the United States must develop a comprehensive strategy for Somalia that utilizes all facets of

its power and capability and must ramp up its diplomatic efforts throughout the region and the international community to bring this crisis to an end.

Unfortunately, the administration has yet to appoint a senior coordinator for Somalia to pull together a strategy and to engage fulltime with international and regional partners in addressing this crisis. There also appears to be a reluctance to put in place additional personnel and resources needed to help execute this strategy and to contribute to international efforts to bring about a lasting peace throughout the region. Frustratingly, there has been reluctance among administration officials to work closely with Congress to identify what additional resources are needed to address changing conditions in Somalia. I have asked repeatedly for a description of needed resources and support that we in the U.S. Congress can provide to help address instability in Somalia and have yet to receive a sufficient response.

Meanwhile, conditions in Somalia are becoming more complex and more troubling. According to a new United Nations report released this week, both the ICU and the TFG are obtaining support from a range of outside actors. If this is true, it signals a dangerous mix of regional and international meddling that could ignite the entire region into a devastating conflict. Recent statements by leaders throughout the region, too, suggest that specific countries may be prepared to intervene outside of the context of a political solution or coordinated international intervention.

Our objectives must not be too lofty: we cannot hope to turn Somalia into a peaceful and established democracy overnight. But we do need to establish realistic goals and objectives and address this problem with aggressive diplomacy and engagement—in Somalia, Nairobi, Addis Ababa, New York, Brussels, Asmara, and throughout the Middle East. We must work diligently to establish a robust political framework within which both Somalia-specific and regional concerns can be addressed, and that will help facilitate a broader arrangement that takes into account the range of actors involved in this crisis. This framework must be supported by the international community and key regional actors. It must also take into consideration the very real security concerns of Somalia's neighbors.

Unfortunately, we have very little time. Conditions continue to deteriorate, and we can't count on weak diplomatic efforts to get us what we need. Instability in Somalia has very real national security implications for our country. Somalia remains what it has been for years: a haven for known al-Qaida operatives and terrorist networks and criminal networks that threaten U.S. interests. As we learned in Afghanistan, we cannot ignore the conditions that breed and empower extremist and terrorist organizations.

Accordingly, it is essential that we treat instability in Somalia like the true threat that it is. We need to act quickly and decisively and as if American lives depend on it. They do.

CELEBRATION OF THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF EARL HOLDING

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dynamic man, my constituent, a loyal friend, loving husband and father, and a highly successful businessman—Mr. Earl Holding. Earl is reaching a wonderful milestone, his 80th birthday, and I couldn't let this occasion pass without honoring him for the good he has accomplished throughout his life.

Earl has accomplished feats in business in Utah and throughout our Nation that few have ever achieved. He has made a lasting imprint on many industries including petroleum, ranching, and the travel and hotel industry. His work ethic, and inspirational leadership has literally transformed the business landscape of our State. His acumen and tenacity are legendary and are admired by many.

Earl has not been alone in his success. In 1949, Earl married his business partner, Carol Orme, and together they embarked on a remarkable life journey. These two humble individuals worked together to forge something real and lasting in all aspects of their lives. A story is told of their early years that I believe poignantly displays the dedication they both have always demonstrated. Their wedding night at the Temple Square Hotel in Salt Lake City reached an early end when they left at 5:00 a.m. to take their irrigation turn at their orchard.

In 1952, Earl and Carol accepted the responsibility of managing and investing in Little America, a service station and motel located in a remote area of western Wyoming. At the time Little America was unprofitable. In just 2 short years, through hard work, perseverance, and tenacity, the Holdings were able to turn Little America into the largest and highest volume service station in the United States.

From this beginning, the Little America Hotels and hotel properties led by Earl have become a favorite place for thousands of travelers throughout the Western United States. In fact, in preparation for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, Earl personally undertook a mission to build the first five-star hotel in Utah. His dream became a reality with the development and building of the Grand America Hotel in Salt Lake City. This property is truly "grand." It is beautiful from the top to the bottom and is a wonderful testament to Earl's dedication to quality and service.

Earl's contribution to the travel and recreation arena doesn't end with his hotel properties. He also owns and manages the Snowbasin ski area in Utah, the home of several Olympic races during the 2002 Olympic Winter